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LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the ban on military flights in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina established pursuant to Security Council resolution 781 (1992).

On 21 February 1993, in a meeting with the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the senior Bosnian Serb aviation officer in Banja Luka, Major-General Ninkovic, requested permission for military jet aircraft to fly at one of the airports in Banja Luka. UNPROFOR's Chief Military Observer, at that meeting, clearly pointed out that such flights would constitute violations of Security Council resolutions 781 and 786 (1992), and, therefore, could not be authorized.

On 11 March 1993, the UNPROFOR airfield monitors at the Mahovljani airfield in Banja Luka were requested to authorize technical flights for three military jet aircraft. On instruction from the Monitoring Command and Control Centre of UNPROFOR in Zagreb, the airfield monitors advised the local Serb authorities that the flights could not be approved. The local authorities responded that the flights would proceed regardless.

The same day, between 11.50 a.m. and 13.07 p.m., the airfield monitors witnessed the take-off and landing of the three military aircraft. The aircraft were also tracked by AWACS radar. The airfield monitors inspected the aircraft and did not find any evidence of armaments or ordnance.

I feel obliged to report this incident separately to the Council since the Bosnian Serbs chose to disregard the provisions of Security Council resolutions 781 and 786 (1992) although they had been advised twice that the flights concerned would constitute violations. UNPROFOR has strongly protested the incident to the Bosnian Serb authorities and demanded that these and other violations cease immediately.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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